

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080571

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CPRS, ZA, US

SUBJECT: SOGHOIAN CASE

1. DURING NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO SOGHOIAN PLEA TO MIS-DEMEANORS SOGHOIAN AGREED INFORMALLY (AND PERHAPS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF GRZ EMBASSY) TO MEET WITH FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES TO DISCUSS CERTAIN ASPECTS OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN US SOME OF WHICH PRE-DATE HIS EMPLOYMENT BY GRZ. ACTIVITIES SINCE HIS GRZ EMPLOYMENT DO NOT INVOLVE CONDUCT BY GRZ OFFICIALS IN US BUT RELATE TO SOGHOIAN'S PERSONAL PROBES OF PERSONNEL OF SENSITIVE AGENCIES. EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS OF SOGHOIAN DISCUSS THESE ACTIVITIES WAS ONE OF FACTORS IN USG ACCEPTANCE OF PLEA TO MISDEMEANOR.

2. SINCE SOGHOIAN ENTERED PLEA HOWEVER, HE HAS PROVEN UNWILLING MEET WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES. CONSEQUENTLY U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS ISSUED SUBPOENA TO REQUIRE HIM TO DO SO.

3. SHOULD SOGHOIAN REMAIN UNCOOPERATIVE, US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WOULD MENTION THIS TO JUDGE AT TIME OF SENTENCING. RESULT MIGHT WELL BE SENTENCE LESS FAVORABLE TO SOGHOIAN

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THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED.

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4. DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK TO ALLAY GRZ EMBASSY'S PROBABLE CONCERNS ABOUT NEW SUBPOENA. SHOULD EMBASSY RECEIVE INQUIRIES, IT SHOULD RESPOND THAT USG AUTHORITIES ONLY WISH SPEAK WITH SOGHOIAN AND ARE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY NEW CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM INVOLVING THE GRZ. SUBPOENA WAS ISSUED AS LAST RESORT WHEN SOGHOIAN FAILED RESPOND TO INVITATION TO MEET WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.

5. AS EMBASSY WILL HAVE PERCEIVED, FOREGOING MILITATES AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO LINK DISPOSITION OF SOGHOIAN AND CROTHERS CASES AT THIS TIME.

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